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HOUSE MEMORIAL 16

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF CURRENT
PRACTICES FOR ENSURING THE PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF
ADOLESCENTS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, during the transition from childhood to
adulthood, adolescents may make poor lifestyle choices that
lead to unhealthy patterns of behavior that could have a
lasting effect on their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, although healthy behaviors, such as eating
nutritiously, engaging in physical activity and choosing not to
use tobacco, would reduce the incidence of chronic disease in
adulthood, adolescents face many factors, including peer
pressure, fractured families, school issues and poverty, that
challenge their ability to choose such behaviors; and

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1 WHEREAS, the national association of county and city
2 health officials is an advocate for the development of an
3 adolescent health platform, including health screenings, age-
4 appropriate immunizations, injury prevention, obesity
5 prevention and mental health screenings, in multiple settings,
6 including school-based health centers; and

7 WHEREAS, the American academy of pediatrics, the advisory
8 committee on immunization practices, the American academy of
9 family physicians and the American medical association all
10 endorse a routine health care visit for adolescents aged eleven
11 to twelve to receive recommended immunizations and other
12 evidence-based preventive health care services; and

13 WHEREAS, the health resources and services administration
14 of the federal health and human services department has
15 developed, in conjunction with the American academy of
16 pediatrics, the *Bright Futures Initiative*, a national health
17 promotion and disease prevention initiative that includes a set
18 of guidelines and recommendations regarding immunizations and
19 routine health screenings for adolescents; and

20 WHEREAS, the advisory committee on immunization practices
21 recommends the use of United States food and drug
22 administration-approved vaccines for pertussis, tetanus,
23 meningitis and human papillomavirus in adolescents, and the
24 federal centers for disease control and prevention has launched
25 a national campaign to raise public awareness regarding

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1 adolescent health and immunizations; and

2 WHEREAS, a national immunization survey conducted by the
3 federal centers for disease control and prevention found that
4 immunization coverage levels among adolescents in 2006 did not
5 meet the immunization goals of *Healthy People 2010*; and

6 WHEREAS, parents and parental awareness are very important
7 determinants of adolescents receiving preventive health care
8 services; and

9 WHEREAS, the society for adolescent medicine has found
10 that preventive health care services are among the best tools
11 to ensure continued good health from childhood to adulthood,
12 and adolescents who regularly visit a primary care health care
13 provider are less likely to have emergency room visits and
14 preventable hospitalizations;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
17 of health be requested to collaborate with the public education
18 department to examine the adequacy of current practices for
19 ensuring the preventive health and well-being of adolescents in
20 New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health and
22 the public education department explore avenues to promote
23 immunizations and preventive health care for adolescents,
24 including application of the guidelines developed by the health
25 resources and services administration of the federal health and

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1 human services department and the public awareness campaign
2 developed by the federal centers for disease control and
3 prevention; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the secretary of health and the secretary of
6 public education.

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